

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 5, 6, 9, 14, and 15 contain allowable subject matter.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. Claims 1-15 have been amended by way of this reply to correct grammatical and idiomatic errors and to clarify the claimed invention. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments, as support for these claims may be found, for example, in original claims. Claim 1 is independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings. Specifically, the Examiner states that the listed description of the reference numerals in Figures 1-25 should be deleted. Also, the Examiner states that Figures 26 and 27 should be designated by a legend such as "Prior Art" because only what is old is illustrated. As suggested by the Examiner, Applicant has amended Figures 1-27 and submitted replacement sheets. Accordingly, withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Abstract of the disclosure

The Examiner has objected to the abstract to the disclosure because the abstract exceeds 150 words and because of informalities. Applicant has amended the abstract as set forth above in view of these objections. Accordingly, withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

Claim Objection

Claims 1-15 were objected to because of the informalities. Claims 1-15 have been amended in view of this objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter, which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-15 have been amended in view of this rejection to clarify that the main body and cover are not positive elements in the claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 7, 8, and 10-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 7,231,188 to Godston *et al.* (hereinafter "Godston"). Claims 1-4, 7, 8, and 10-13 have been amended as explained above. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the reasons set forth below.

MPEP § 2131 makes it clear that a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found either expressly or inherently in a single prior art reference. Applicant respectfully asserts that Godston does not show or suggest all of the limitations of the amended claims.

One or more embodiments of the present invention are directed to a rotation supporting mechanism having an eccentric cam. With reference to Figure 6, for example, the eccentric cam 19 rotates eccentrically because the eccentric cam 19 rotates around the cylinder 24. Specifically, the axis of the rotation of the eccentric cam 19 is the center of the cylinder 24, which is offset from the center of the eccentric cam. Accordingly, independent claim 1 requires, in part, "an eccentric cam rotating eccentrically."

The Examiner alleges that the wheel 310 and the contact point 318 as shown in Godston correspond to "an eccentric cam rotating eccentrically" as required by claim 1. However, Applicant respectfully disagrees. Godston shows that the wheel 310 rotates around the hole 316 that is a center of the wheel 310, not around the contact point 318, and, thus, the wheel 310 does not rotate eccentrically.

Specifically, Godston states “[t]he wheel 310 is rotatably coupled to the upper housing 120, via a protrusion (not shown), which extends downward from the retainer plate 340” and “[t]he protrusion engages a hole 316 located at the center point of the wheel 310, about which the wheel 310 is adapted to rotate” (see Godston, column 6, line 65 – column 7, line 2). Further, Godston discloses that a force is applied to the wheel 310 at the contact point 318 so that the wheel rotates (see Godston, column, 7 lines 39-51). Thus, it would be clear for a skilled artisan that the wheel 310 rotates around the center 360 of the wheel 310, not around the contact point 318, and that the wheel 310 does not rotate eccentrically.

Therefore, Godston fails to show or suggest “an eccentric cam rotating eccentrically,” as required by amended independent claim 1. Further, because Godston fails to show or suggest at least “an eccentric cam rotating eccentrically,” as required by amended independent claim 1, Godston also fails to show or suggest at least “said eccentric cam having a portion corresponding to the closed position at one rotational position with maximum eccentricity on a cam surface and a portion corresponding to the open position at another position with minimum eccentricity on the cam surface, the positions being 180 degrees opposite to each other through an axis of the eccentric cam.”


In view of above, Godston fails to show or suggest the invention as recited in amended independent claim 1. Thus, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Godston. Dependent claims are allowable for at least same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591, Reference 04473/003001.

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Respectfully submitted,

By  #45,079
Jonathan P. Osha THOMAS SCHNEIDER
Registration No.: 33,986
OSHA · LIANG LLP
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant